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INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
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AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

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DEPT FOR AF/EX PMO MARTINEZ  
DEPT FOR AF/C LKORTE  
PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHERS

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SUBJECT: BRAZZAVILLE IN BRIEF - JANUARY 22, 2009

NEW DIGS  
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¶1. As we noted last week, the U.S. Embassy in Brazzaville has now opened in the new embassy compound.

Our address is:

Boulevard Maya Maya  
Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

The main embassy number is (country code 242) 612-2000. We will be updating our website information over the next several days.

The Foreign Minister of Congo, Basil Ikouebe, spoke at the opening ceremony. He praised the United States for constructing a building within the theme of "accelerated municipalization" which would contribute to the beautification and improvement of the Congolese capital as well as standing as a gesture of friendship and confidence for the future of U.S.-Congo relations. Citing a proverb, he said that, "the stranger who builds a house in a village shows clearly his determination to stay there, if not forever for a very long time." The Minister recalled that when he was Congo's Permanent Representative in New York, he had read the book on U.S. Embassy architecture "Building Diplomacy" with pleasure but also with regret, since it did not include an embassy in the Congo. Now, he said, this had been rectified.

Turning to events of the day in Washington, the Minister noted the conclusion of the term of President Bush, thanking him profoundly for the building as well as the interest he had taken in Africa. He noted that there could not be a better moment to open a new American embassy, on the day of the inauguration of Barack Obama as President, due to the immense expectations the whole world held toward the new President.

FEATURE ARTICLE

¶2. The political parties: Union Panafricaine pour la Democratie Sociale

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Whose Side are they on, anyway ?

This week, the UPADS (Union Panafricaine pour la Democratie Sociale) announced that if the upcoming Presidential election is not "transparent, fair, and equitable" then UPADS would not participate. What follows is a description of UPADS and its history for our readers.

The UPADS is a political party historically associated with former President Pascal Lissouba. Lissouba himself, however,

has been in exile in Paris for many years. He is reportedly ill and has been incommunicado for quite some time. It is said that sporadic negotiations are under way for his return to Congo, doubtless in an apolitical role. Much was made of a meeting between Mrs. Sassou-Nguesso and Mrs. Lissouba in December during the first lady's trip to France.

In the 1991-1992 transition to multiparty elections, the UPADS was part of the Alliance Nationale pour la Democratie (AND) which also included the Party Congolais du Travail (PCT) the current ruling party.

In the election held in June-July 1992, UPADS won 39 out of the 125 seats, and together with its AND allies (mainly the PCT), gained a slight majority of seats in the National Assembly. In the August 1992 Presidential election, UPADS leader Pascal Lissouba won in the second round over Bernard Kolilas, the leader of the Mouvement Congolais pour la Democratie et le Developpement Integral (MCDDI), with 61 percent of the vote.

A UPADS-led government, with Stiphane Maurice Bongho-Nouarra? as Prime Minister, was appointed after Lissouba took office. However, the PCT withdrew from the pro-Lissouba alliance and joined the opposition after it received only three ministerial positions in the government, thus breaking the slim parliamentary majority. On October 31, 1992, the Union for Democratic Renewal-led opposition coalition and the PCT defeated Bongho-Nouarra's government in a no-confidence vote. Lissouba consequently dissolved the National Assembly and called a new election, but public protests forced him to accept the formation of a national unity government dominated by the URD and PCT in the lead-up to the election.

In the 1993 parliamentary election, the Presidential Tendency ("President" in this case meaning Lissouba), of which UPADS was the main component, won a majority of the seats decided in the first round, 62 out of 114, with UPADS itself holding 49 of the 62. But, true to form, the URD and PCT opposition denounced the election as fraudulent and refused to participate in the second round, in which the Presidential Tendency won an additional seven seats. These results of the second round were annulled and when a second round revote was held in October 1993, the Presidential Tendency won only three of the eleven available seats.

During the presidential election held on 10 March 2002, UPADS took second place but received less than 3 percent of the vote, with Sassou Nguesso the overwhelming victor. In the parliamentary election held on 26 May and 23 June 2002, UPADS won only 2 out of 137 seats.

Anticipating the 2007 parliamentary election, and with Lissouba in exile, the party held its first extraordinary congress in December, 2006. Pascal Tsaty-Mabiala was elected secretary-general of the party. UPADS broke with the rest of the opposition in deciding to participate in the June 2007 parliamentary election; most other opposition groups boycotted.

The party put forward about 50 candidates but won only three of the 46 declared in the first round. Tsaty-Mabiala said that the party would only participate in the second round of the election in July if the electoral rolls were improved, voter registration cards were properly distributed, and the composition of the electoral commissions was changed. He also said that the second round should be delayed to allow time for these things to be done. The election was delayed by two weeks, but the party won only an additional seven seats, bringing its total to 10 seats in the National Assembly. Tsaty-Mabiala denounced the results as fraudulent and that the election was neither transparent nor fair, alleging that five UPADS candidates, in Mossendjo, Moutamba, Nkayi, Mabombo and Dolisie electoral districts in the south, had won but were deprived of victory in the results. One was subsequently seated as a result of legal action.

Currently, the party is divided into three and possibly four factions: (1) Tsaty Mabiala's; (2) a second led by former party secretary general Christophe Moukouiki; and (3) a third led by former State Minister and Minister of Interior and Security

during the Lissouba administration Martin Mberi.

In December, the party (via Mabiala) announced that its candidate for the coming presidential election would be Ange Edouard Pongui. But on January 17, Tsaty Mabiala announced that the UPADS will use all the legal means to obtain a transparent, just and fair election. Otherwise, UPADS will not take part in the presidential election.

Comment: There's a widespread view that what is happening in the UPADS is a systematic dismantling led by the party in power.

There are at least two "independent" announced presidential candidates with strong UPADS roots, and the Tsaty Mabiala group believes that both Mounoukeke and Mberi maintain close relations and contacts with Sassou-Nguesso. The factionalism and threats of boycotts that characterize the UPADS in the present era are an obstacle to the emergence of a more unified opposition for the July presidential election.

### 13. OIL PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO RISE in 2009

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According to estimates produced by the Ministry of Hydrocarbons, Congo (Brazzaville)'s crude oil production for calendar year 2008 was estimated to be 87 million barrels. The Ministry announced a forecast for 2009 projecting an increase to 110 million barrels (thus, if the forecast is met, rising to over 300,000 b/d). The projected increase is attributed to two new fields that came on line for the first time in 2008, Total's Moho-Bilondo and ENI's Awa-Paloukou, as well as the expected impact of new entrant Murphy Oil's deep water Azurite field, where production should begin sometime in 2009. (Murphy, headquartered in El Dorado, Arkansas and operating out of

Houston, is ramping up its personnel in Pointe Noire this month to install an innovative, industry-first collection system.)

Other significant activities in the hydrocarbon sector noted by the Ministry include a 2008 seismic exploration program in the Cuvette Basin in north-central Congo by Pilatus Energy, ongoing efforts to maintain production at existing fields, and the beginning of construction of a gas collection system which will feed electricity generation plants at Djeno (the site of the present oil terminal) and Cote Mateve, which are expected initially to produce 350 MW of electric power when completed.

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